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REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON AIR TRANSPORT

(Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 6 to 8 May 1985

A. Organization and attendance

1. The technical consultative meeting on air transport projects included in the second phase programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa was held from 6 to 7 May 1985 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

2. Representatives of the following member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Chad and Zaire.

3. Representatives of the following donor countries and organizations also participated in the meeting: Australia, Belgium, United States, France, Italy, AFCAC, ASECNA, ICAO, ITA and UNDP.

B. Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened by Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA. In his opening statement he welcomed the delegates to the Seventh Technical Consultative Meeting, which was the first devoted to the second phase of UNTACDA and he disclosed that the meeting had been organized in collaboration with other agencies. He said it was the first meeting dealing exclusively with air transport projects and emphasized that the purpose of it was to provide a forum at which African officials and those of donor countries and financial institutions could examine a selected number of projects with the expectation that the latter would make firm decisions on the projects which stood a good chance of being financed.

5. Regarding the successful financing of projects, he recommended that bilateral contacts between countries or a group of countries and donor agencies should take place to review both national and subregional projects. He stressed the importance of technical consultative meetings on the basis of experience gained from the six that had been successfully held in the past.

6. Turning to the projects for this particular meeting, he disclosed that they were 91 in number costing $974 million out of which $111 million will be financed by African States. He emphasized the role of air transport in Africa and said that African Governments were doing all they could to improve air transport services and called upon the international community to help in further development of the subsector.

7. He closed his statement by wishing the meeting success and said that the presence of distinguished representatives of donor institutions was a demonstration of their continued commitment to the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

C. Summary of proceedings

Presentation of transport projects included in the Decade programmes

8. Introducing the document, the Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of ECA indicated that the document comprised a total of 91 projects broken down as follows:

- 51 infrastructure and rehabilitation projects;
- 29 training and technical assistance projects;
- 7 co-ordination and co-operation projects;
- 4 maintenance projects.

9. The total cost of the projects was $974.08 million, of which $115.65 million had been obtained, leaving an amount of $858.43 million to be mobilized.

10. Some projects had already been partly implemented, whereas other more important ones had received no financing. In spite of the crisis facing them, countries were themselves making laudable efforts to partly finance implementation of projects which concern them.

General discussion

11. The Acting Deputy Executive-Secretary, who presided over the meeting, in the absence of the Executive-Secretary, recalled the conclusions of the meeting with donors, organized by ECA to find solution to financing of Decade projects. Donors had requested ECA to draw up a brief, properly classified list of priority projects, and he asked whether the meeting could not do the same for air transport projects. He went on to inform participants that donor countries were still not all represented in the hall and that the meeting might decide on what action to take in that respect.

12. During the ensuing general discussion, participants indicated that ECA could in no way influence the decision of donors and that it was difficult to select priority projects. Member States could however update their projects, in direct collaboration with the secretariat.

13. Participants then requested that the meeting be adjourned and that it be held jointly with the technical meeting on railways or the one on postal services.

14. The ECA secretariat was therefore requested to contact Malawi and Congo, where the technical consultative meetings on railways and on postal services would be held respectively, to find out if either of them would be willing to host the air transport meeting also in Blantyre or in Brazzaville).

15. ECA secretariat was asked to directly contact donors to sensitize them to the need to participate in technical consultative meetings.

16. Closing the meeting, the Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, assured participants that the secretariat had duly taken note of the suggestions and that it would make the necessary contacts with the Embassies of Malawi and Congo, as well as with donor countries and financial institutions. He thanked the countries for responding to ECA's invitation and said participants would later be informed of contacts by ECA to ensure the success of subsequent technical consultative meetings.